

Public meeting on \$48 billion transportation plan

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Details of a \$48 billion statewide transportation investment plan will be discussed June 11 as part of a series of statewide public hearings on the Transportation and Infrastructure Moving Arizona's Economy initiative that requires voters approving a one-cent state-wide sales tax for the next 30 years.

The meeting will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the newly expanded Phoenix Convention Center West, 100 N. 3rd St., in meeting rooms B and C.

The T.I.M.E. initiative, if passed by voters in November, would earmark 55 percent of the estimated \$48 billion for highways, 18 percent for commuter rail projects, 20 percent for local transportation improvement projects, 4 percent for scenic easements and 3 percent for open space, with most of the projects in Maricopa County. In addition, every county and Native American tribe in Arizona will receive some funding for local improvement projects.

The goal of the initiative is to reduce congestion and provide rail options for commuters while also protecting the environment.

First, supporters must gather 153,000 valid petition signatures by July 3 to get the initiative on the ballot, where passage isn't guaranteed.

For more information, visit the ADOT Web site at www.dot.state.az.us and look under statewide transportation investment strategies for a county-by-county breakdown of projects.

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